Controlling the prices of drugs

524. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of drugs, which according to the criteria should be under price control, are sky rocketing;

(b) if so, how Beclame Thasone, Tinidazole Vitamin B6, etc. are outside price control;

(c) what are the reasons for the same;

(d) what are the prices fixed by Government and the market prices of Salbutamol formulations and since when this position is continuing;

(e) whether there is any rationale of controlling the prices of Trimethoprim, Tetracycline, Sulpha Methoxazole, etc. when these are out-dated and replaced by other drugs which are outside price control; and

(f) the names of other replaced drugs and the view of his Ministry for controlling the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c), (e) and (f) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been identified for inclusion under price control in the DPCO, 95 on the basis of criteria mentioned in the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994. These criteria take into account the extent of usage and the market competition of various drugs.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade

commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. Percentage change in wholesale price index over preceding year for drugs & medicines has been less than that for all commodities during the period 2000—2004.

The medicines mentioned in part (b) of the Question are non Scheduled ones whereas the medicines mentioned in part (e) of the Question are Scheduled ones.

(d) Salbutamol is a Scheduled bulk drug under the DPCO, 1995. Prices of formulations based on this bulk drug have been fixed/revised by the NPPA from time to time. However some of the companies have approached the courts in the matter.

Setting up of a power plant by IFFCO

†525. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Company IFFCO propose to set up a Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether work will be started in this Financial Year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is exploring the possibilities of setting up power plants, preferably adjacent to its existing fertilizer plants. Commencement of the projects would depend on investment decision to be taken upon finalisation of initial feasibility studies.

Standards for regulating drinks and beverages

526. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.